

APPENDIX II

COMMENTS ON  
THE SURFACE VISIBILITY  
OF SAN FELIPE REGION  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES



14000 FRUITVALE AVENUE SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95070 (408) 867-2200

**SARATOGA CAMPUS**

ROBERT G. FRICKE, *Chairman, Social Science Division*



August 27, 1973

Mr. Tom King  
830 Dexter Street  
Santa Rosa, California 95405

Dear Tom:

This is a reply to your inquiry concerning the surface indications of the Saratoga site at 6th Street and Big Basin Way.

Very careful visual inspection of the surface of this site revealed extremely scanty evidence for the existence of an important archaeological site below the surface. Surface indications consisted primarily of a small amount of burnt sandstone, a very sparse flake scatter, and a few stone tools that were found on the surface in the course of several days spent at the site during excavations.

Below the surface parts of the site were characterized by a distinctive dark soil, large amounts of burnt rock and ash, lithic material and burials, and other remains of an Early Horizon living site.

Conditions which made observation of the site difficult from the surface were: 1) large amounts of vegetation, which alone would have made the site difficult to discover on a survey; 2) soil washed in from a hill behind the site which covered parts of the surface; 3) the fact that the surface of the site had been thoroughly surface collected for years by a local resident. It was through this collector that archaeologists were informed of the site's location, and 4) disturbance of the surface by farming and construction activities for many years.

In conclusion, it is highly probable that an important site such as the Saratoga site would not have been discovered by a survey team walking over it.

Sincerely yours,

LINDA KING

JAMES P. HARDY, *Superintendent/President*

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379 Corral de Tierra  
Salinas, Calif. 93901  
August 31, 1973

Mr. Tom King  
830 Dexter  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Dear Tom:

I am writing in answer to your question concerning buried sites in northern Monterey County. To date there are three such sites known, none of which are visible from the surface. The characteristics of these sites are as follows:

Mnt-375 Located on the Sam Chinn ranch, between Salinas and Castroville, at the end of San Jon Road 1 mile SSE of Espinosa Lake. (UTMG # 160651, Salinas 7.5' Quad map.) Prior to its destruction in the late 1960's this site was in a earth bank 20' high overlooking a dried-up slough. This was leveled to provide more farming land. Approximately 55 burials were found during leveling, along with many cultural artifacts. Burials are reported to have been found between 6 and 20 feet deep, with a layer of sandy loam containing no cultural or midden material above them. Site was not visible from the surface or in the earth bank according to the occupants.

Mnt-499 Located in the Mid-Valley area of Carmel Valley, about 9 miles east of Carmel, at the southwest corner of Berwick Dr. and Center St. (UTMG # 067422, Seaside 7.5' Quad map.) This site was discovered by PG & E while digging gas lines with a backhoe. Two burials and a mortar were recovered. The burials were about 30" deep, in a layer of coarse sand which was under a 24" thick layer of hard sandy loam. There was no midden found,

either in the sand layer or in the hard dirt above it. A site of this nature, with only burials, and a complete lack of midden, is impossible to spot from the surface. In most cases they will be found by construction crews and destroyed before archaeologists can be notified.

Mnt-614 Located 200 meters east of the junction of Highway 1 and Palo Colorado Road, about 12 miles south of Carmel. (UTMG # 985287, Soberanes Point 7.5' Quad map.) This site is seen in the bank where it is exposed by the construction of Palo Colorado Road. It consists of a midden layer about 2 meters thick with between 2 and 3 meters of sterile sandy loam above. The upper half of the midden deposit contains the usual coastal shell fragments, while the lower half of the midden contains mostly barnacles. There is a single bedrock mortar 10 meters to the east of this site, but no midden is visible in that area.

All three of these sites share the characteristics of being buried, having no visible surface indications, and having been found during construction activities which either destroyed or seriously damaged the sites. It is quite probable that other sites have been discovered in this manner but have not been reported to archaeologists.

Gary S. Breschini

*Gary S. Breschini*

Monterey County Archaeological Survey